

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A tactilely readable timepiece, comprising:
a clock device configured for keeping time;
a display comprising:
a display area,
at least one movable portion within the display area and movable with respect thereto such that the portion moves from an initial position that is substantially flush with the display to a time-indicating position that is either raised above or depressed below the display area to form at least one displayed character that is recognizable by touch by a user, the displayed character having a tactilely sensible shape that is independent of a system of dots; and
an actuator operably associating the clock device to the movable portion for displacing and positioning the movable portion to form the displayed character depending on the current time kept by the clock device.
2. (Original) The timepiece of claim 1, wherein the displayed character is alphanumeric or geometrical.
3. (Original) The timepiece of claim 1, wherein the movable portion comprises a plurality of movably portions, and the actuator is configured for cooperatively positioning the movable portions for creating the displayed character.
4. (Original) The timepiece of claim 3, wherein the actuator is configured for changing the elevation of the movable portions with respect to the display area to form the displayed character.
5. (Original) The timepiece of claim 4, wherein the actuator is configured for elevating the movable portions above the display area to form the displayed character.

6. (Original) The timepiece of claim 5, wherein the actuator is configured for depressing the movable portion below the display area to form the displayed character.

7. (Currently Amended) The timepiece of claim 4, wherein the movable portions are generally pie slice shaped and are arranged generally around a central point, such that the height of at least one of the movable portions is changed with respect to the rest to indicate the general analog position corresponding to the time kept on the clock device.

8. (Currently Amended) The timepiece of claim 3, wherein the displayed character comprises one of different characters representing a preselected time ~~[[times]]~~ kept by the clock device.

9. (Original) The timepiece of claim 3, wherein the displayed character is configured to be identified by a user by the orientation thereof, and has discrete positions in the display area.

10. (Original) The timepiece of claim 1, wherein the displayed character is configured to be identified by a user by shape.

11. (Currently Amended) A tactilely readable timepiece, comprising:
a clock device configured for keeping time;
a display comprising:
a display area,
a plurality of movable portions within the display area and movable with respect thereto such that at least some of the portions move from an initial position that is substantially flush with the display to a time-indicating position that is either raised above or depressed below the display area to form at least one displayed character that is recognizable by touch by a user, the displayed character having a tactilely sensible shape that is independent of a coded system of dots, wherein the displayed character comprises at least one of different characters to represent a preselected time kept by the clock device, each of the different characters having a shape that is sufficiently large to be determined by touch; and

an actuator operably associating the clock device to the movable portions for displacing and positioning the movable portions to form the displayed character as the at least one of the different characters corresponding to the current time kept by the clock device.

12. (Original) The timepiece of claim 11, wherein the different characters represent at least each of the hours in a twelve hour period.

13. (Original) The timepiece of claim 11, wherein the different characters comprise up to ten different characters.

14. (Original) The timepiece of claim 11, wherein the different characters represent at fractions of an hour.

15. (Original) The timepiece of claim 11, wherein the movable portions comprise elongated segments that form the displayed character.

16. (Original) The timepiece of claim 15, wherein the movable portions are arranged as an at least seven-segment display.

17. (Original) The timepiece of claim 11, wherein the different characters comprise Arabic numbers.

18. (Original) The timepiece of claim 11, wherein the different numbers comprise geometric shapes that are distinguishable by finger touch.

19. (Original) The timepiece of claim 18, wherein the geometric shapes each has less than eight sides.

20. (Original) The timepiece of claim 11, wherein at least some of the displayed character is displayed on substantially a same location in the display area.

21. (Original) The timepiece of claim 11, wherein the different characters comprise a single digit or shape.

22. (Original) The timepiece of claim 11, further comprising an indicator portion that is movable by the actuator between at least two tactilely sensible positions to indicate the time kept on the clock device in combination with the displayed character.

23. (Original) The timepiece of claim 22, wherein the indicator comprises a plurality of indicators, each with a position that in combination with the displayed character indicates the time kept on the clock device.

24. (Original) The timepiece of claim 23, wherein the plurality of indicators are disposed surrounding the display area.

25. (Original) The timepiece of claim 22, wherein the indicator is movable by the actuator along a path to more precisely indicate the time kept on the clock device in combination with the displayed character.

26 (Original) The timepiece of claim 11, wherein at least two of the movable portions that form one of the different characters are sufficiently close such that any spacing therebetween is substantially undetectable by touch by a human finger pad.

27. (Original) A wristwatch comprising:
the timepiece of claim 11; and
a band configured for mounting the timepiece to a user's wrist.